

Compilation of Email and Written Comments
Received by Facilitation Team April 22, 2005 - April 28, 2005

Increasing property taxes, already rather high, disproportionately against vacation renters versus full time renters or owners, may cause the vacation renters to opt out of the market. Kauai has no significant industry to support itself other than tourism. If this impending disproportionate leveling of taxes cause many vacation owners to opt out and therefore cut into the income from tourism it could cause a significant loss of income to the state and to local businesses.

Is it really worth limiting tourism and its tremendous boost to the economy just to bring in a few more tax dollars? Right now Kauai has a GOLDEN CALF in its rising tide of tourism. Does the local government really want to destroy this windfall to satisfy a few full time residents?

If you disproportionately tax vacation rental owners, I for one will not rent my home henceforth but use it only for my large family and friends. You will lose the money I pay to Lihue and to the State of Hawaii in income taxes, and to all the money my renters spend on vacation in Hanalei and Princeville and other areas of Kauai. You are, if you allow this disproportionate division of property taxes between full time residents and vacation property owners, being pennywise and pound foolish.

There is a small group of loud full time renters, and government agents who decry the presence of tourism and would like to keep Kauai pristine as in the old days and cut tourism out. Unfortunately for this group they don't understand that the old days of sugar cane and pineapples, when Kauai could maintain itself without tourism are gone forever,

From whatever readers who see this I would be happy to hear your comments for or against my position- Thank you for reading this letter.

We own a home at _____ Hoona Rd., Koloa (Poipu) Kauai. During the times we are not there we rent our home out to those who want to experience beautiful Kauai. Most of the homes in our neighbourhood are vacation rentals. We are in support of vacation rentals and would definitely sell our home if we were not able to rent it out.

Too many illegal vacation rentals on Kauai and not enough houses for the local people. This needs to stop! Vacation rentals are what keeps pushing rents higher and higher-unaffordable for the island working people.

I feel that Kauai vacation rentals are taking over Kauai. As it is right now, there's practically already more vacation rentals on the north shore than regular houses. And what I hear is they're thinking of putting even more. Now that's just ridiculous. Why

should vacationers have a better pick at where they are gonna stay only for a few weeks, when we're the ones working hard to live here? The roads are already taken over by them and now where are we supposed to live?

As a single mother there is no affordable housing due to the amount of housing usage for vacation rentals on the north shore. By the time my son is older he may not be able to enjoy his families home because everyone surrounding our property is selling and those who are buying just want to rent it as a vacation rental to make money. How can it be Hawaii if we can't afford it, and the locals keep having to leave because housing costs are too high. The people are what makes this place Hawaii, don't let the vacation rentals take over our home.

I feel that as being a 16 year old living on the North Shore living in Wainiha (?) there are way too many tourists taking up our residents houses and not enough local people having places to live, living in the north shore I see all of the tourists getting a lot more land and there support to be in Princeville and Poipu, Hanaelai, Haena and Wainiha. Are local residence always, that's how the North Shore always is! So please take my letter into consideration and think about the people that have ... (fax cut off)

My views on this matter are simple mathematics, how many residents on Kauai? How many residential units occupied by permanent residents? How many units are vacation rentals? Demographics play an important part. There should be a moratorium on vacation rentals in residential areas. Our islands infrastructure cannot capacitate the influx of rental cars and there should be a tax break for people who do own houses or condos that do not reside on the island, but rent to local families. Because if it weren't for them, I'd be living in a tent somewhere or possibly moving to the mainland.

It's come to the point where locals, young couples and old, cannot afford their own home, its everyone's American dream. On Kauai it's a living nightmare. Please do something. Moratorium limit on the amount of vacation rentals, now being built so many are overcrowding the community. Some have 8 units in one dwelling (Weke and MahiMahi Rd. corner) for instance. How come? Doesn't the planning commission realize or do they turn a ... (fax cut off)

I think the County Council must look to the future of this problem. Regulation and concern should be looked at in detail. With only vacation rentals available and very little or any long term rentals, we have no balance. Where are the people that don't own going to live? Do something now or suffer the consequence later ... (fax cut off)

I Mitchell K. Alapa—raised on the island of Kauai—from Haena to Kapaa—for 48 years worked for the labor union AFL-CIO for approximately 15 years.

I've seen the damage done to the north shore of Kauai and the south shores on all the islands...this comment has nothing to do with the tourist industry, but the realtors and land owners who are thinking only but their greed and the owners who are trying to get their money back for their profit of getting everything FREE.

I've payed my taxes out in Haena and I know what's up!

Enough already! How are the keikis gonna afford Hawaii. Wake up!

I don't think their should be so many because land tax go's up, and the locals no can afford.

Turning single family residence into vacation rentals raises the rents beyond the means of locals who live and work here. Therefore I am against vacation rentals in residential areas.

Vacation rentals are becoming an epidemic that is taking holmes away from residents. It is spreading and effecting everyone.

Vacation rentals is the biggest abomination of Hawaii & Kauai's culture of family & community every allowed. This promotes the disgusting financial practice of allowing outside-mainland investors to come & drive up the real estate values for there selfish profit, hence, not allowing Hawaiians & locals a chance to buy, own or even rent in the communities that have been their homes for generations. That is why we have hotels! That is where they are supposed to stay when they come & visit our islands. Not in our communities. Please stop this sick abuse for profit!

Residential areas should be just that. Certain areas Haena in particular should not be allowed to have vacation rentals that cause property values to sky rocket and creating a situation where people who are born and raised here are unable to purchase a home. Also we need a Grandfather tax code so that people who have live here since '98 or '92 maybe even tiered the longer you have live on a property the more of a break.

Hotels-condos-timeshares are vacation acomadations not neighborhoods. Taking rental units out of the market and turning them into vacation unit is short sighted to say the least. People who work in the shops restraunts and hotels need place to live that they can afford. Today's inflated rental market is pushing these workers off the island. It won't

be long before there is nobody left to mow lawn, severe meals, clean room, or build the new mega homes for the rich. Tourist belong in properly ZONED acomadations.

1. I am a single parent raising 2 children in Haena.
 2. 80% of the homes in Haena are vacation rental therefore there is no community nor feeling of community here. The Hanalei School suffers from lack of enrollment therefore federal grants are lessened.
 3. All the generational families are being displaced because of high and higher land taxes.
 4. Area is not zoned for commercial use. It is illegal never mind the double speak.
 5. Real estate is soliciting sales to people on the mainland because those of us who live here cannot afford the purposeful inflation of land prices.
 6. You are destroying the future of the island my children their grandchildren etc. With your policy of “highest and best use.”
 7. County policy of “highest and best use” is what is perpetuating the destruction of Kauai.
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Vacation rentals outside of VDA has cause impact on—

1. Communities & neighborhoods
 - no balance or/and no quality of life
2. No government enforcement & control
 - always solved w/after the fact permitting
3. Infrastructure
 - high density—dwellings; usage; waste discharges etc.
 - inadequate emergency needs for community FIRE etc...
4. Visitors need to be educated on neighborhood and community issues and way of life! They make us feel like we are intruding on their space. When in fact they are invading our space & life style.
5. Impact on Hawaiians life style; culture; and NO LAND; no place to go!!! We are from these lands this is Home!

So many more stuff I’d like to touch but I’m sure this is again a beginning.

I’m against vacation rentals—because there’s a lot of people not getting informed of the hazardous ocean conditions. Also there should be more affordable housing for local residents.

I think that vacation rentals shouldn’t be rented out to vacation people. People on Kauai need houses so badly but can’t afford. I, for one, disagreed for a house that anybody to be rented as vacation rental. Kauai needs more affordable houses for families with low income. For example in Haena where as it is a conservation area. But it has lots houses being built. Why doesn’t the state do something to stop it.

I am 25 years old, born and raised on Kauai. I now face the prospect of being unable to afford to purchase a house here on Kauai. Illegal vacation rentals are the main source of the problem, depleting Kauai's rental inventory for long term housing, and constantly driving prices up to ridiculous amounts. Kauai community officials talk about housing shortages for local residents, but in reality there is no shortage. The houses are all just reserve for tourists. More and more locals are squeezed out as property values skyrocket & land taxes soar. An average working family cannot afford to raise their children here anymore, and are forced to places like Arizona and Nevada where they still have a chance to make it. I hear all the real estate agents show up to defend their "bread and butter," but they are such a small minority in all of Kauai society. Please consider the rest of Kauai community that are being pushed out of their own homes. I feel this problem can be solved by enforcing the rules and regulations that are already in place to facilitate vacation rentals. Please think about the long term effects of our actions today. If we don't stop this problem now there will be no room for any of us, or our children.

Concerning residential neighborhoods, more often than not parking space is limited even over crowded with residents cars.

Some vacations rental have eliminate homes for families & working people.

Being born and raised in Haena and seeing the loss of my family and friends that had to move away due to the high property taxes that they could no longer afford. It is really depressing to me know that I'm older and can realize I'll be able to have a home in Haena unless I am a millionaire.

BIG problem on north shore is the vacation rentals. Its displacing a lot of people who have lived here (some for many years) both locals & hoale alike. The price of homes is so very high that mainlanders who buy here are almost forced to vacation rental to pay mortgage. Many are making big profit & all that profit goes off island. It gives work to some but really profits the greedy only. Homeowners who live here year round also have some ohana units. A situation like that is different. You have locals just trying ends meet and if a rental unit is helping them out in that way, then I feel that justified. There needs to be a system to differentiate between the two situations, as one helps people here and the other helps those who don't live here and pay their taxes elsewhere.

As a local family we discourage vacation rentals on our beach front. Our beaches are (or should we say were) so beautiful and natural. Local familys could be seen spending the

day fishing, camping, surfing, etc. With all the new vacation rentals coming up the locals are being pushed out.

Where are the local people supposed to rent? There not! The locals are being forced to move to the mainland. The tourist take over. What are they giving back to our Islands? Rents have sky rocketed due to costly vacation rentals. Why rent a house to a local family for \$1,200.00 a month when you rent vacation rental for \$1,200.00 a week? Where is this going to leave our children? They are our future!

Money talks and that's not what us local have. We love our family and simple life. That's being taken away from us. We don't even have time to enjoy our island because we're juggling 3 jobs to try to make rent.

There are enough hotels to accommodate the tourist. We do not want vacation rentals on our beaches. Thank you for your time.

HAWAIIAN! No like to much traffic to much rude and ungreatful people, pollution too!

I feel the big wigs from mainland are buying up all our property for big bucks, not leaving here and putting them out for vacation rentals. I've lived here for 36 years and I appauled—enough is enough. Let them try to withstand one Iniki—get them out so us locals can afford to live here in peace. My 3 granddaughters who live with me are suffering. Vacation rentals (plague of the Island of Kauai—STOP).

We now all live here on Kauai are one big family and we don't need a bunch of people who come here for two weeks and say they live here who put local families out of their homes for their children to grow up and would like to live near their family's. We need to get back to the roots for local people to have what they are entitled to have and that's a life with their children to have a place to grow up! Get the time-vacation renters out of here!!! now!

Displacement of local residents! No affordable housing!

I think vacation rentals should be limited to resort areas! Visitor destination areas. Vacation rentals are causing:

1. Sewage problems, overflow systems in Hanalei Bay.
 2. People not respectful to locals w/noise pollution, driving habits.
 3. Not fair for people's taxes who aren't making this extra income.
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Vacation rentals have made it hard for the working people of Kauai that can't afford to own houses. It is also effecting my children—the next generation can't afford to live here—taking over neighborhoods! Parking is a big problem also traffic. It also is driving up the cost of houses—the housing market is flooded.

To whom it may concern:

I was born and raised in Kilauea, the north shore of Kauai. 15 years ago, it was a beautiful and green place, where traffic was rare. Nowadays, the island is packed full of tourist cars, and the locals are being forced out of their communities because of a lack of inexpensive, available houses.

We need to provide the people, who helped make Kauai what it is today, with houses. Everywhere I look, there are new timeshares being established and new hotels being built. If this doesn't stop soon, local residents won't be able to afford to live here anymore.

Please take my letter into consideration.